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Identical letters dated 7 June 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the evening of Tuesday, 6 June 2017, the illegitimate "international coalition" led by the United States of America committed yet another flagrant and serious attack on Syrian Arab Army forces fighting the terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Syrian territory. That attack killed a number of Syrian Arab Army soldiers and caused material damage.

This most recent aggression clearly reveals the true objectives of that illegitimate coalition, and they have nothing to do with the stated objective of the Governments of its member States, which is to combat ISIL. The true objectives are to undermine the steadfastness of the Syrian Arab Republic and its army and to weaken the country by prolonging the terrorist war.

On 5 June 2017, the forces of that dubious and illegitimate coalition committed another horrifying massacre of Syrians, when 12 civilians, including women and children, were killed in a coalition airstrike on the city of Raqqah.

The crimes committed by the illegitimate coalition provide the clearest evidence that the United States of America and the Governments of coalition member States are manipulating global public opinion and misleading the Security Council in particular. The United States of America falsely claims to respect international humanitarian law and human rights while leading a coalition that engages in terrorism and violates international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council resolutions on the situation in Syria, all of which emphasize the need to respect the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic, the unity of its people and its territorial integrity.

The Syrian Arab Republic once again condemns in the strongest possible terms the repeated attacks by the illegitimate coalition on the Syrian Arab Army, which is at the forefront of a relentless fight against the terrorism of ISIL, the Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations. Syria warns the illegitimate coalition that escalation carries risks and has ramifications. It calls on the Governments of the United States of America and coalition member States to desist from carrying out such horrific attacks, which in fact only strengthen ISIL at a time when the Syrian Arab Army and allied forces have been making daily inroads against terrorist organizations.

The repeated attacks by the illegitimate coalition on the Syrian Arab Army, Syrian civilians and infrastructure must stop; any continuation of these attacks

would constitute support for terrorism and threaten the security and stability of the region and the world.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Security Council to uphold its responsibilities and respond to these attacks against the sovereignty of Syria, the Syrian Arab Army and innocent civilians. It must hold the Governments of the States members of the illegitimate coalition accountable for the crimes they have committed in Syria, before such attacks, which can no longer be condoned, justified or ignored, become even more severe.

I should be grateful if these identical letters could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Louay **Falouh**
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.